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HELPERS AMONG US

Helpers Among Us - Aaron Katz sues CDC over puppy import ban

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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Aaron Katz with his rescue puppy Doby and his other dog Mabel. WINCHESTER NEWS STAFF PHOTO /JOYCE WESTNER

Thinking of rescuing a puppy from outside the country? Well, yo
late. As of Aug. 1, a federal regulation bans dogs from entering th

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but local resident Aaron Katz is challenging that rule.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new law, "dogs that have spent the prior six months only in dog rabies-free or low-risk rabies countries will be able to enter the United States with a *CDC Import Form* online submission receipt as acceptable documentation."

Copley Street resident Katz and his wife, Andrea, adopted a street dog on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia in April, and when he heard about the new law, he put his attorney hat on and is using a court strategy of filing several lawsuits on behalf of other dog lovers and rescue organizations.

Next week, for instance, he's representing a rescue group in Tampa and also a Michigander who wants to adopt a long-haired Dutch shepherd, a rare breed bred only in France, Germany and the Netherlands, which Katz points our are all rabies-free countries.

In June, he filed his first lawsuit against the CDC on behalf of local rescue groups and the Boston Globe wrote an article about him.

"That created awareness," says Katz. "Other plaintiffs heard about it on Facebook," where there's a 7,000-member group called CDC Dog Import Help.

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“Doby became an unexpected addition to our family,” says Katz’s wife Andrea. “It’s heartbreaking to think what would have happened to him if he was left on the street.”

And it’s a law that affects puppy owners who want to take their pet to Canada, for instance, says Katz.

“If you cross the border for only two hours, you can’t bring the puppy back into the U.S.,” he says. “And this affects foreign service members as well.”

The law is an attempt to keep rabies from coming into the U.S., where rabies was eliminated in 2007. But Katz points out the ban keeps out puppies from other rabies-free countries.

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Katz would like to get as many folks involved as possible, and urges them to call their senators and congress member.

“It’s a bipartisan issue, with legislators from both sides” hoping to get the ban rescinded.

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Helpers Among Us - WinPAC unites with light

On a cold and blustery day, two post-graduate Winchester High School students and others stood outside the Stop & Shop inviting folks to buy luminary kits as part of the Unite with Light event planned for Sunday, Dec. 14. The successful program was started by Mairin Norton, a high-schooler who

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Helpers Among Us - Alisa Dong needs your help with Thanksgiving food drive

Standish Lane resident Alisa Dong has only lived in town for about four years, but she’s already immersed in helping people. And she wants residents to help her provide Thanksgiving Day meals for local food-insecure residents. A membe[illegible]’s Family Action Network (FA

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Helpers Among Us — Coaches volunteer to bring on the cheer

You probably know that cheerleaders appear at sporting events to cheer on their teams, but you might not know that cheerleading is a sport in its own right. Or that Winchester Cheer coaches volunteer to help girls and boys learn and compete in cheerleading. Middlesex Street resident Erin Black is

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Helpers Among Us - Patti Reilly wants your children's clothes

Although Patti Reilly opened her boutique, Jules, about a year and a half ago, she's already discovered the generosity of Winchester residents. That's why she and her husband, John, decided to offer a 10% discount on one item to anyone who brings in "gently used children's clothing.

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The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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